

NAC 11 Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 / 7:00 pm

Brewers Alley

MINUTES

NAC 11 COORDINATORS: Present: Bruce Albaugh, Ricardo Bairan, Nkem Wellington, Darcy Richards, Eric Nicholson, Brad Hoffman, Julia Schaeffer (Chair)

CITY STAFF & ELECTED OFFICIALS: FPD: Michele Bowman Chief of Police Edward Hargis, Lt. Paul Beliveau, Sgt. Tracey Wiles, Det. Sgt. Alcorn, Code Enforcement: B. Sparks, A. Alford; State's Attorney's Office: M. Moore

MINUTES: Marge Rosensweig

INTRODUCTIONS: NAC 11 Coordinators, residents, and guests introduced themselves.

POLICE REPORT:

Between August 20, 2019 and September 12, 2019, there were:

- 1,225 calls for service
- 305 proactive enforcement operations (116 traffic stops & 189 patrol checks)
- 56 arrests (including 15 CDS, 9 alcohol, 7 trespassing in the South Market Corridor)
- 3 significant events: shooting 300 Blk N Market St. (Open); shooting 600 Blk N Market St. (Open); stabbing 50 Carroll Creek Way (Open; warrant issued for suspect)
- 1 robbery: W Patrick & Degrange (Open; warrant issued for subject, charges pending with Detective)
- 4 burglaries: three suspended; 2 arrests made; 1 open case
- 1 theft of auto: 300 Blk N Market (Open; offender likely known to victim)

In response to a question about the nature of the shootings (i.e., random or targeted), Det. Sgt. Alcorn indicated these were not random but targeted and pose no threat to the general public. The FPD has taken several steps to address downtown crime including swarm patrols downtown to make presence known at night and at time of bar closings; adjustment of schedules so street crimes team and gun violence teams overlap; posting more uniform officers downtown and on Carroll Creek. The FPD asks residents to let them know of presence of Ring cameras as they can use the surveillance video (even if it has been deleted as it can be recovered).

Chief Hargis indicated that the FPD is not at full staff, but the downtown area is. Shifts will change in January to 12 hours/shift to assure overlap and the FPD will request additional officers in the next budget cycle. In response to other questions, Chief Hargis noted that:

- the department prioritizes posting of officers daily based on the types of events, types of crowds anticipated as well as past experience, using analytic data to search for events that might become an issue

- crimes against persons are down 10.5%
- the Department has asked for more cameras in past budget cycles and will do so again
- there is a correlation between the environment (e.g., blocks of vacant buildings) and crime

Several attendees questioned the seeming lack of consequences for repeat offenders. M. Moore (State's Attorney's Office) noted that typically crimes in the Carroll Creek area are categorized as "nuisance" crimes. In response, the office has been working to establish a mental health court for the past year and is considering a LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program as a response to repeat offenders. A suggestion was made that NAC 11 residents provide vocal support for these initiatives at public hearings and workshops.

Attendees asked why the FPD has decided to not enforce the noise ordinance. In response, the FPD said they have asked the city attorney to review the ordinance so that convictions can be assured, noting that "without convictions there is no reason to enforce." A NAC 11 resident spoke to this issue as it affects the "North of Fourth" area stating that the "neighborhood regularly experiences social behaviors inconsistent with residential livability." (See attached text "Good Neighbors Make a Great City.")

PLANNING PROJECTS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Brittany Sparks and Angelia Alford described the department's procedures for responding to code violations, noting that complaints are prioritized--#1 safety; #2 citizen complaints, #3 pro-active enforcement of exterior violations. Currently, 44% of violations result from proactive enforcement; 45% from complaints. All violations are posted on the department's website. Inspectors make regularly scheduled (exterior) inspections:

The following questions were raised/responded to:

- schedule of inspections—runs are scheduled on a regular basis (and are often seasonal)
- functionality of the complaint system—it seems to be working and complaints are reviewed daily
- analysis of current trends—daily review identifies trends
- differences (if any) between business and residence codes—all codes are enforced depending on which applies to a particular property
- recommendation of new codes—the department suggests new codes when new trends are noted or codes seem not to be effective
- codes for Air B&Bs—currently there are no codes specific to Air B&Bs
- cosmetic v safety complaints—the situation guides how one views a complaint (e.g., snow and ice are safety issues, though they could be perceived as cosmetic)
- coordination with other departments—good coordination
- the timeline for compliance—varies with the complaint, and if property owner does not comply the response is situational (e.g., if the complaint is structural, it's addressed immediately, if it's cosmetic, the response is more flexible). The goal is to reach compliance without issuing a citation.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Attendees were directed to the Subcommittee reports for updates.

- Although the issues are still important, summaries from Litter Group and Short Term Rental Group have been removed from the updates due to a lack of bandwidth to cover all issues of concern and a sense that the City is not vested in these issues.
- South Market Subcommittee: The group is working with the Ausherman Foundation and continues to collect data. Currently there are 80-100 individuals on the South Corridor Listserve.
- SDHVP: The subcommittee anticipates a vacant property registration ordinance will be enacted and seeks support from the public.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sidewalk Café Issue: An email from Alderman Russell noted that there is no consensus to make any changes to the current ordinance. NAC 11 coordinators responded via email expressing disappointment to this decision and stated that the outcome favors “a few businesses over the safety and convenience of residents...”

NEW BUSINESS:

None

UPCOMING EVENTS: